



EPI OBSERVER

July — September 2011

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Martin County Health Department
Division of Epidemiology

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Unwelcome Dinner Guests

As the holiday season approaches with expected gatherings of friends and family, there is always the possibility of the uninvited dinner guest. Many strategies have been employed for generations to avoid this particular phenomenon.... the most popular being....turning off all the lights and pretending that no one is home.

Unfortunately this won't work for this type, since they are frequent flyers on the unwashed hand, not to mention the undercooked turkey and that very lonely vegetable dip that's been sitting in the corner for a while. Don't let germs crash your party, after all it is your house! Take charge of the situation. How you say? Glad you asked.

4 Easy Reminders in Safe Food Handling—Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill.

CLEAN— Bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and get on hands, cutting boards, knives, and countertops. Frequent cleaning can prevent that from happening. Wash hands with warm soapy water for 20 seconds before and after handling food. Don't forget to wash those fruits and vegetables. Feel free to use a brush for those firm groovy ones.

SEPARATE— Cross contamination is one way bacteria spreads. Keep raw meat, poultry, seafood and their juices away from ready to eat ones. A good idea is to use one cutting board for fresh produce and a separate one for raw meats. Also NEVER place cooked food on a plate that previously had raw meats, poultry or eggs.

COOK— Some bacteria can be sturdy bugs and can survive with improper heating and preparation. Cook ground meat and poultry until it reaches a safe internal temperature. Remembercolor is not a reliable indicator of "doneness"

CHILL— Refrigerate or freeze meat, poultry, eggs and other perishable items as soon as you get them home from the store. Chill leftovers and takeout food within 2 hours. When in doubt, toss it out. Stay safe and Happy Eating!



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Disease Incidence Report

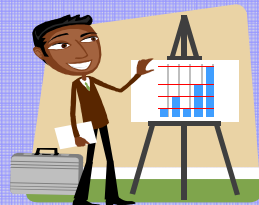
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MERLIN Registry System, Disease Incidence Report
Martin County Health Department, Division of Epidemiology
 (January 1st, 2011–September 30th, 2011)

	Martin County Cases Reported Year-to-Date		State of Florida Cases Reported Year-to-Date	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Central Nervous System & Invasive Diseases:				
Haemophilus Influenzae (Invasive Disease)	1	0	176	143
Listeriosis	1	0	20	47
Meningitis, Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic	1	1	149	147
Meningococcal Disease	2	0	46	50
Strep Pneumoniae, Invasive Drug-Resistant	6	5	483	604
Streptococcal Disease Invasive Group A	1	1	192	197
Strep Pneumoniae, Invasive Susceptible	2	5	502	502
Hepatitis:				
Hepatitis A	1	2	73	136
Hepatitis B (+HBsAg in pregnant women)	0	0	324	359
Hepatitis B, Acute	2	0	201	250
Hepatitis B, Chronic	8	8	3551	3238
Hepatitis C, Acute	0	2	73	84
Hepatitis C, Chronic	168	112	18584	16643
Vaccine Preventable Diseases:				
Mumps	0	0	19	13
Pertussis	1	1	241	246
Varicella (Chickenpox)	13	17	663	804
Enteric Diseases:				
Campylobacteriosis	44	4	1782	946
Cryptosporidiosis	12	6	341	316
Cyclosporiasis	0	1	47	58
Escherichia Coli, Shiga Toxin Producing	2	2	325	177
Giardiasis	2	13	884	1671
Salmonellosis	31	36	4191	4616
Shigellosis	5	2	1974	830
Typhoid Fever	1	0	8	19
Vibrio Vulnificus	0	0	30	30
Vibrio Parahaemolyticus	1	0	22	31
Vector Borne & Zoonosis Diseases:				
Animal Bite, Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for Rabies	29	20	1683	1590
Dengue Fever	2	0	50	170
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis, E. Chaffeensis	0	1	10	3
Lyme Disease	2	3	88	77
Rabid Animals	0	2	83	104
Other Diseases:				
Brucellosis	1	0	6	6
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	3	0	82	145
Ciguatera	1	0	41	17
Lead Poisoning	2	4	505	827
Legionellosis	1	1	126	129
Pesticide Related Illness	0	1	133	24
Total:	346	250	37708	35249

Data in Merlin reports are provisional, based on cases entered by county health departments and are not considered official data



ESSENCE

Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics



What is ESSENCE?

- ✓ ESSENCE is a near “real-time” statistical program that allows epidemiologists to detect unusual activity and determine the need for public health action by monitoring the Emergency Department data counts.

How does ESSENCE work?

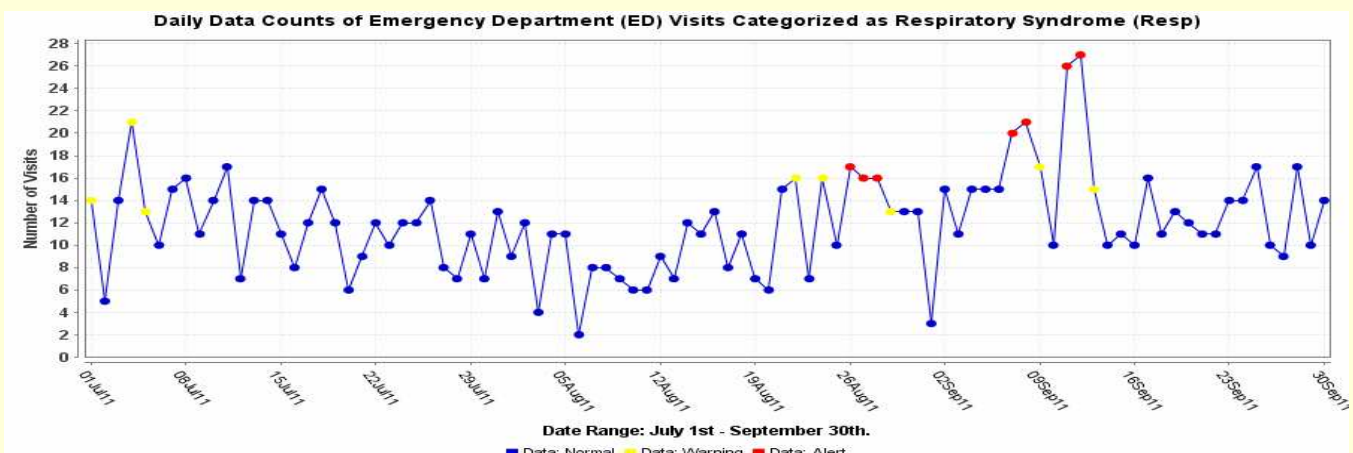
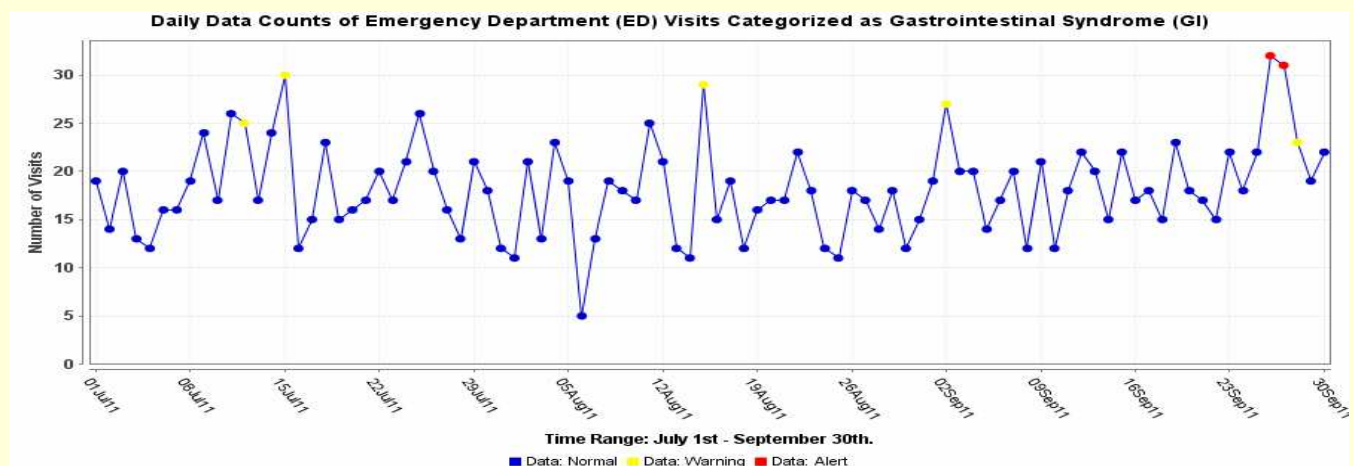
- ✓ It provides a common environment that permits users to:
 - Detect outbreaks in a timely fashion minimizing the health impact in the community
 - Run descriptive epidemiological analysis
 - Monitor health behavior, morbidity, and mortality trends across multiple data sources
 - Create reports and data reviews that are used to inform health providers of important public health concerns

Our ESSENCE

- ✓ Martin County has 2 participating hospitals: Memorial Medical Center and Martin Memorial Hospital South.
- ✓ Collectively, they transfer the information of an average of 150 Emergency Department visits everyday.
- ✓ Emergency Department data is categorized based on Chief Complaint into 8 Syndromic Groups.
- ✓ Respiratory, Gastrointestinal, Fever, Rash, Neurological, Hemorrhagic Illness, Botulism-like, Shock / Coma.
- ✓ ESSENCE uses the transferred data to conduct multiple statistical tests and to issue warnings and alerts.
- ✓ Epidemiologists at the Martin County Health Department determine epidemiological significance from statistical significance.

Our ESSENCE Activity

The syndromic categories with the highest activity for the months of July, August and September were **Gastrointestinal Syndrome** with 2 Red Alerts followed by **Respiratory Syndrome** with 7 Red Alerts. No outbreaks were reported during this time period.



Upcoming Events

WORLD AIDS DAY 2011 EVENT

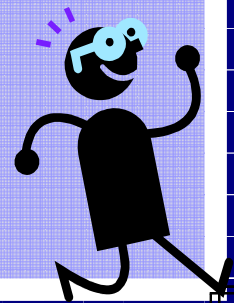
Corner of SE Pettway St and Old Dixie Highway

Hobe Sound, FL 33455

When : Dec 1st

Time :10am to 2pm

Free HIV testing and Give- aways!!!!!!



Announcement

Dr. Ferreira, who has been an active member of the Influenza Sentinel Surveillance Program, was selected by the Bureau of Epidemiology as 1 of the 20 “Super Sentinels” statewide. Only 20 physicians were chosen, out of a possible 160 Sentinel physicians to be part of this elite group.

The selection was based on consistency, frequency, and quality of samples submitted which plays an important role in determining what strains of Influenza are currently circulating and Flu vaccine effectiveness.



For Additional Information on Upcoming Events Please Contact

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